

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendments filed 2 February 2012 have been entered. Claims 7-8, 11-15, 17, 20, and 21 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

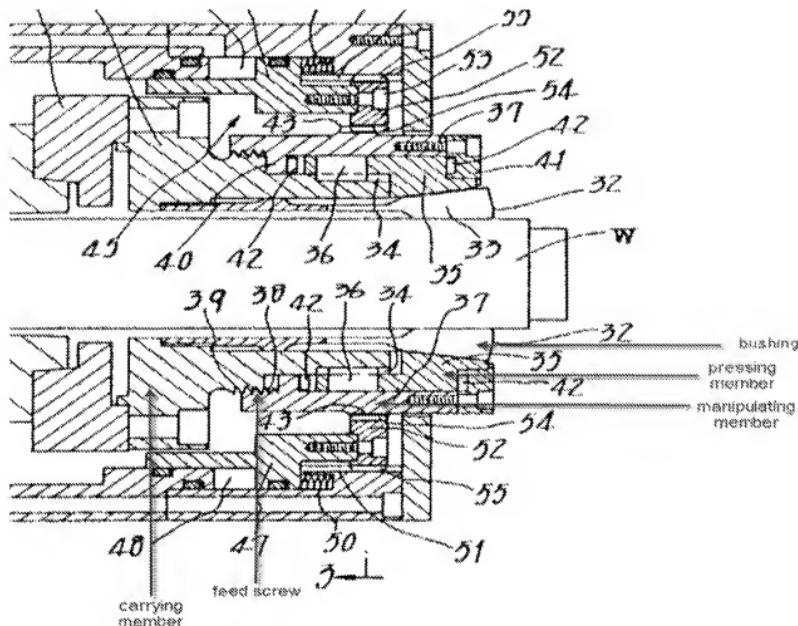
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 7, 8, 13, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 3-26406 to Tamada et al.

In re claim 7, Tamada teaches a guide bush (32) having a material introducing end (Fig. 1) and a material lead out end (Fig. 1), as axially opposite ends, and including a hollow tubular material support section (Fig. 1) elastically displaceable in a radial direction about a guiding axis (Fig. 1), an adjusting mechanism (Fig. 1) for adjusting a radial dimension of a material support section on a guide bush, an adjusting mechanism comprising, a carrying member (31) carrying a guide bush (32) and having a front face disposed around a material lead out-end of a guide bush (Fig. 1), a pressing member (35) disposed near a front face of a carrying member and moveable relative to a carrying member (Abstract) and able to make a relative linear motion along a guiding axis relative to a guide bush (Fig. 1), the pressing member causing an elastic displacement in a radial direction on a material support section by a relative linear motion (Abstract), a feed screw (38, 39) causing a relative linear motion between a

pressing member and a guide bush by a mutual screwing motion of threads (Abstract), the adjusting mechanism further comprises a manipulating member (37) disposed near said front face of said carrying member (Fig. 1) and mounted on said carrying member adjacent to said pressing member (Fig. 1), said manipulating member (37) being operable separately (as defined by applicant in Remarks 2/7/12) from said pressing member (35) and said manipulating member including a manipulation section (Fig. 1) for manipulating said feed screw structure to cause said screwing motion is provided on said manipulating member (feed screw 38 is provided on member 37), wherein said feed screw structure (38, 39) is provided between said carrying member (31) and manipulating member (37). See drawing below.



In re claim 8, a guide bush (32) is secured relative to a carrying member (31) in a direction along a guiding axis (Fig. 1).

In re claim 13, the adjusting mechanism further comprises an anchoring member (40) disposed near the front face of the carrying member (31) for inhibiting the screwing motion of a feed screw structure.

In re claim 14, a fitting portion (Fig. 1, see above) is provided between a carrying member (1) and a pressing member (20) in a coaxial arrangement relative to each other (Fig. 1) is provided between a carrying member and a pressing member (Fig. 1); and a fitting portion (Fig. 1, see above) for holding a carrying member and a guide bush (Fig. 1) in a coaxial arrangement relative to each other is provided between a carrying member and a guide bush (Fig. 1).

In re claim 17, the material guide device (Fig. 1) is installed in a proximity to a working location of machining of an objective material (Fig. 1). The material guide device positions the workpiece in a desired location to undergo the intended cutting process.

Response to Arguments

4. The 112, second paragraph rejection has been overcome, by applicant's amendment and explanation of the relationship between the pressing member and manipulating member.

5. Applicant's arguments filed 7 February have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the prior art of record to Tamada et al. does not fairly teach or suggests the manipulating member or a feed screw between the manipulating member and the carrying member.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The manipulating member (37) is disposed near the front face of the carrying member (31, see page 2 above) and a feed screw (38) is located between the carrying member (31) and the manipulating member (Pg. 7,

Para 5) to smoothly transmit motion to the pressing member (35) to radially adjust the bushing (32).

Applicant argues the prior art of record does not fairly teach or suggest a manipulating member that is mounted on a carrying member adjacent to a pressing member, is operably separately from said pressing member and a manipulation section for manipulating said feed screw structure to cause a screwing motion in which said feed screw structure is provided between said carrying member and manipulating member.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. As disclosed in the above rejection and depicted on Page 3, the prior art to Tamada fairly teaches and suggest a manipulating member (37) that is mounted on a carrying member (31) adjacent to a pressing member (35), is operably separately from said pressing member (Pg. 7, Para 5) and a manipulation section for manipulating said feed screw structure (38) to cause a screwing motion in which said feed screw structure (38) is provided between said carrying member (31) and manipulating member (37).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JENNIFER SWINNEY whose telephone number is (571)270-5843. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on (571) 272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/594,743
Art Unit: 3724

Page 8